

Notes from meeting of CREZ Refinement Group on Friday, January 9, 2009

Participants: Carl Zichella, Sierra Club, Johanna Wald, NRDC, Roger Johnson, CEC, Karen Mills, CA Farm Bureau, Andy Horne, CSAC, April Sall, The Wildlands Conservancy, Faramarz Nabavi, CalWEA, Russell Scofield, DOI, Desert Managers' Group, and Rainer Aringhoff, Solar Millennium. Participants for part of the meeting were Peter Pawlowski, CPV, Joan Taylor, Sierra Club, and John McCaull, GEA.

Participants discussed plans that had been developed to assess two key issues related to CREZ refinement: fragmentation of private land ownership and land use constraints on public land. It was agreed to use two screens to assess developability of fragmented parcels: 10 owners per 2 sq. mile area and 20 owners. The latter screen was accepted at the urging of both environmentalists and P. Pawlowski, a renewable energy developer. We also went over some new information that had been obtained regarding developable private lands, including some 7,000 acres north of Edwards AFB in Tehachapi CREZ which a developer has put together for potential solar development, and several large parcels owned by Solucar south and west of Harper Dry Lake in the Kramer CREZ. Ryan Drobek of CEERT is managing this work.

With regard to ACECs, a first cut has been done on acreage in CREZs of both ACECs and DWMAs, including Mojave ground squirrel management areas. More work needs to be done on these data, including confirming that we have complete and correct information regarding current applications filed with BLM.

We discussed the need for more outreach of the sort that we had done the previous day and the day of this meeting with county officials. The group agreed on the value of such meetings and the importance of reaching out to Kern, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties with programs similar to the ones we had undertaken in Riverside. Andy Horn volunteered to identify local agency personnel in each county to assist with setting up the public meetings.

Russell Scofield of DOI briefed us on the activities of the Desert Managers' Group and the ways in which the CREZ Refinement Group could interact with DMG members. All agreed that it would be desirable to have input from DMG members as part of CREZ refinement work.

Many thanks to Faramarz for doing the note taking at this meeting.